

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10-69 were pending in this application with claims 5, 6, 15, 22, 62, and 66-69 being withdrawn. By this response, Applicant cancels claims 1-8 and 10-69 and adds new claims 70-90. As a result, claims 70-90 are pending for examination with claim 70 being an independent claim. Applicant respectfully points out that claims 72 -74 are directed to a non-elected embodiment. No new matter is added.

I. Interview

Initially, Applicant's representative Walt Norfleet thanks the Examiner for his courtesy in conducting a telephone interview on April 12, 2007. During the interview, one manner in which independent claim 70 distinguishes each of the cited references was discussed. Applicant, however, presents herein different reasons as to how independent claim 70 distinguishes the applied references. The substance of remarks made during the interview are summarized throughout the remarks herein.

II. Independent Claim 70 is Patentable

As discussed during the interview, Applicant cancels each of the pending claims in favor of a new independent claim 70, and claims 71-90 depending therefrom. Applicant discussed below the manner in which claim 70 distinguishes each of the references that were applied in the Office Action.

Independent claim 70 defines a method of separating buoyant components from a mixture of engine exhaust gases and fluid. The method comprises, among other things, directing more buoyant components of a first mixture (of engine exhaust gases and fluid) along a slanted upper surface of a receiving chamber and toward a lift conduit and flowing buoyant liquid and solid components of the first mixture out of a lift conduit and downward, toward a free surface of a second mixture that resides in a first part of the separator chamber. Applicant notes that flowing exhaust gases of the first mixture through the lift conduit of the receiving chamber and toward a gas containing portion of a separator chamber acts to propel buoyant liquid and solid components of the first mixture through the lift conduit.

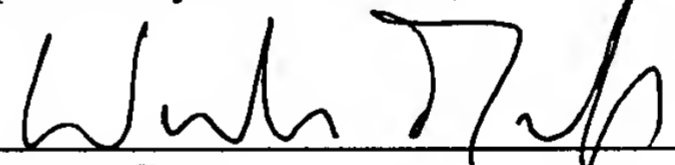
Applicant respectfully submits that none of the references applied in the Office Action teach or disclose directing more buoyant components of a first mixture (of engine exhaust gases and fluid) along a slanted upper surface of a receiving chamber and toward a lift conduit and flowing buoyant liquid and solid components of the first mixture out of a lift conduit and downward, toward a free surface of a second mixture that resides in a first part of the separator chamber. For at least this reason, independent claim 70 is patentable over each of the references applied in the Office Action, including US 2,713,026; US 3,446,353; US 3,505,188; US 3,642,617; US 4,156,648; US 4,184,954; US 4,490,248; US 4,551,246; US 5,980,344; US 6,200,179; DE 3521036; DE 4302358; GB 2035285; FR 1545976; FR 2591128; SU 715143; SU 1191863; and US 6,200,179.

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the application in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Dated: May 14, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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